



2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

Program Focus —

The Wisconsin WRP is focused on restoring as many of the 5 million historically lost wetland acres as possible. The type of wetlands NRCS is restoring range from organic soil basins in the central area of the State to prairie potholes in the eastern coastal region. NRCS is looking to achieve the maximum in wildlife, water quality and public benefits. NRCS estimates that WRP restoration projects have saved 45,000 tons of soil from erosion.

To obtain maximum program benefits NRCS has focused on partnerships with other agencies to achieve large group restorations that can be seen from the air covering vast areas of the State. Pooling resources stretches funding for this work and promotes bonds with other agencies and landowners.

WRP projects are providing significant benefit to establishing habitat for rare and endangered species of wildlife. They also will reduce the risk of flood in areas previously at high risk.



WRP restoration in Manitowoc County

Wisconsin Summary

Overview

Wisconsin has a very successful Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) with over 30,000 acres in easement and over half those acres successfully restored. Wisconsin was one of the first states to establish a monitoring system and hire a full time monitoring biologist to manage the acres under easement.

Wisconsin currently has a list of unfunded applications on over 8,000 acres with more applications coming in daily. NRCS has developed a strong partnership with other State and federal agencies as well as non-profit organizations in an effort to regain some of the crucial wetlands lost over the years.

Accomplishments

Wisconsin has restored a range of wetland types from pothole restorations to open water areas where organic soils once were drained to grow vegetables. The monitoring effort has shown reappearance of forbs and fauna once thought to be destroyed. An enthusiastic staff, support of management, and funding has helped to make WRP a success in Wisconsin. In Fiscal Year 2001 NRCS funded over 6,100 acres on 41 projects. The agency's State goal is to fund 20,000 acres a year if funding becomes available.

Program Benefits

Wildlife habitat is the most obvious benefit from these vast wetland restorations, but other benefits include floodwater retention, groundwater recharge and filtration of runoff from neighboring farms. Often farmers, who decide to retire or cease farming, sell their land for development. With WRP, they can restore natural resources while keeping their land in the family. Socially it is a "win win" situation for all.

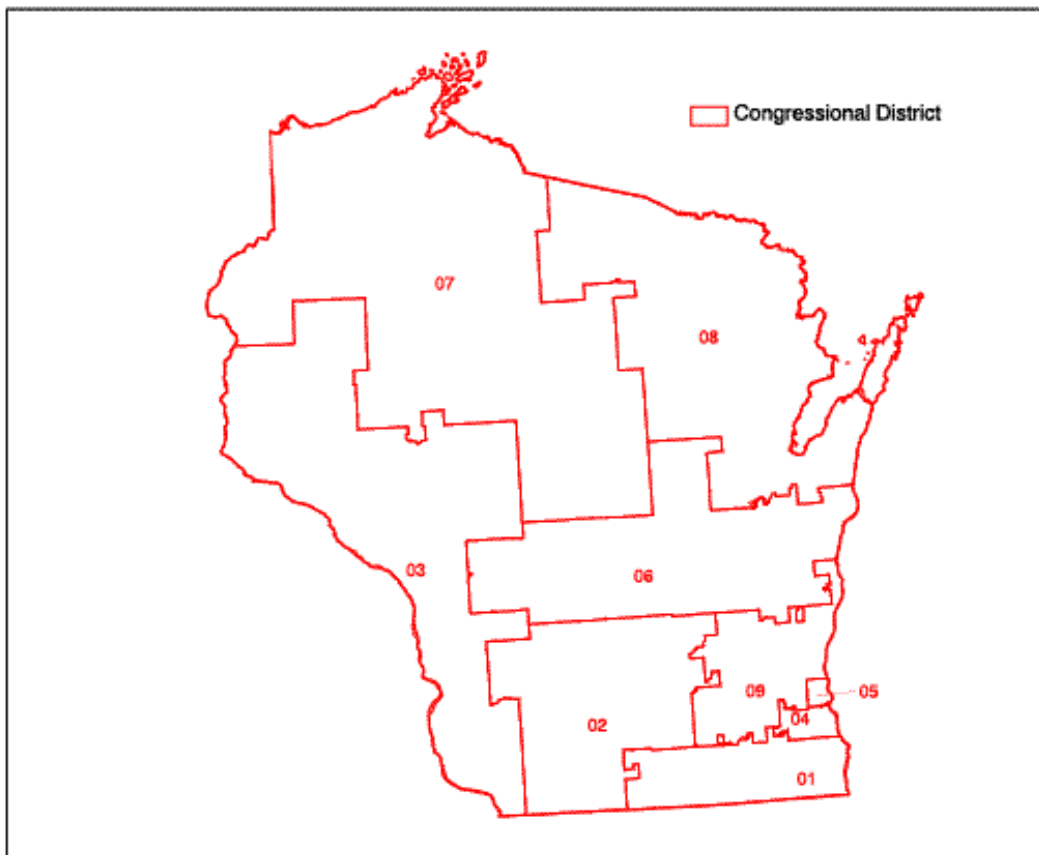
State contact:

Alison Peña, WRP Coordinator
Natural Resources Conservation Service
6515 Watts Road, Suite 200 Madison, WI 53719-2726
608-276-8732 ext. 254
alison.pena@wi.usda.gov



Sandhill crane migration, Columbia County
WRP restoration, 2001.

Wisconsin Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Wisconsin WRP Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (96-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1			\$940,812.50	9
District 2	\$1,619,455	7	\$5,868,454.49	64
District 3	\$841,645	8	\$2,806,592.57	63
District 4				
District 5				
District 6	\$1,044,870	9	\$8,888,555.75	86
District 7	\$1,042,798	11	\$2,685,418.29	58
District 8			\$ 398,604.58	17
District 9	\$3,630,588	6	\$5,354,934.77	25
State Totals	\$8,179,356.00	41	\$26,943,372.95	322

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